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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/730,607	12/07/2000	Masaru Sugano	001615	9246

7590 06/05/2003

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

ABEBE, DANIEL DEMELASH

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

2654

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/730,607

Applicant(s)

Sugano et al.

Examiner

Daniel Abebe

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371C of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sezan et al. (6,236,395).

As to claim 1, Sezan teaches an audio data feature description method, comprising the step of:

hierarchically representing an audio features where the (audio or video) program is at the highest hierarchy, segmenting the program into hierarchies and representing each segment with segment descriptors/features (Fig.3; Figs.13, 16-21; Col.14, line 45-Col.26, line 28; Col.27, lines 12-43).

As to claim 2, Sezan teaches semantically representing scenes or shots of audio programs (Fig.13).

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As to claims 3-6, Sezan teaches where the descriptors reflect content and value of the audio data and where the segments are described with key frames and time codes (Col.4, lines 59-65; Figs.3-12).

As to claim 7, Sezan teaches audio/video program description, wherein the feature value are represented by an audio thumbnail indicating audio pieces or images, and where the thumbnail is described according to the feature type and where the audio/video program is described in segments (Figs. 4-5).

As to claim 8, Sezan teaches where feature values are represented by a clip having arbitrary length (Figs.10-11).

As to claim 9, Sezan teaches where a clip representing audio shots or scenes is represented as key audio clip/key-frame (Fig.14).

As to claims 10-12, Sezan teaches where clips are represented by a plurality of object descriptions (Figs.13, 15 and 20).

As to claim 13, Sezan teaches audio data program description, where the data consists multiple channels represented as key streams and where an audio segment corresponding to the key stream is described (Figs.4-12).

As to claim 14, Sezan teaches where audio segments are described in events (Fig.3; Fig.11; Fig.13, 480).

As to claim 15, Sezan teaches where the program description comprises object description scheme (Fig.13, 482).

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As to claims 16 and 17, Sezan teaches audio data description method, where a representative of audio shot or scene is represented as sequences of slide (Fig.8).

As to claim 18, Sezan teaches audio data feature description method where feature of audio program are segmented and described and value indicating the level of the feature (Figs.3 and 13; Fig.14, 426).

As to claim 19, Sezan teaches an audio video data description method, where in feature type description are extracted and associated with programs; feature descriptions are extracted from one or more audio video programs and organized into meta description data (Figs.3, 6 and 15).

As to claims 20-22, Sezan teaches where the feature types include summary type (Col.34, lines 36-42) and where multi-level summary collection are generated and feature identifiers are included (Col.8, lines 33-48; Fig.6).

As to claims 23-26, Sezan teaches where the feature descriptions structure are generated according to contents and summary types (Fig.13, 402, 404; Fig.3, 64).

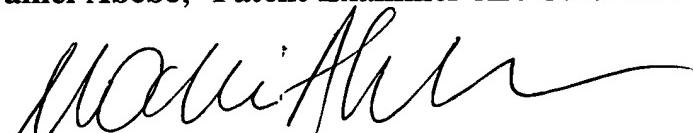
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Daniel Abebe whose telephone number is (703) 308-5543. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha D. Banks-Harold, can be reached at (703) 305-4379. The facsimile phone number for this group is (703)872-9314.

Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377

Daniel Abebe, Patent Examiner-Art Unit 2654



May 21, 2003